

PEACE PROSPECTS.

"The Oasis" Interviews General Luis E. Torres, Just Returned From Peace Negotiations With the Yaquis.

At Hermosillo Thursday morning THE OASIS editor called on General Luis E. Torres, governor of the state of Sonora, who had returned on the preceding day from Torin, in the Yaqui delta, where the leaders of the Yaqui Indians are gathered in negotiation with the state authorities looking to framing a treaty of peace; and the general gave quite an extended interview. In substance General Torres said:

"I have been at Torin more than a week engaged in negotiation with the Yaquis, carrying on the work inaugurated and conducted so successfully by ex-Governor Yzabal, to which I turned my attention immediately upon my return from Europe. We have been holding and are holding daily conferences with the Yaqui chiefs, chieftains and leaders, and discussing frankly with them the entire situation. They seem keenly alive to the condition of affairs, and apparently they have grasped the central idea that unless there is a permanent and lasting peace here in Sonora, ultimate and final annihilation of their tribe is inevitable, no matter how many depredations they commit nor how long they protract the struggle. They seem to realize that the great progressive administration of the republic of Mexico cannot and will not permit a band of hostile savages to lay waste long one of the fairest portions of its magnificent domain, and that it will devote all of its energies to a correction of the evil that they have inflicted and to remove the menace of their continued existence in a hostile attitude. They seem to grasp the fact that it will be better for all to have peace; and I believe now that we can announce shortly that the authorities of Sonora and the Yaquis have agreed upon and cemented a firm and lasting friendship."

THE OASIS is pleased to give to the public this interview with Governor Torres, and trusts that he will realize all he hopes. But we cannot forget that he is dealing with Indians.

ALLEN T. BIRD,
NOGALES, Nov. 20, 1908.

The Colorado mining company, Mr. Robert Graham, manager, operating a fine property in the vicinity of Huepac, on the Sonora river, has completed its new stamp mill and cyanide plant, which are turning out now about \$8,000 per month in gold and silver bullion. Everything is new, and during the two months since completion of the mill, has had to close several times for adjustment and difficulties incidental to the running of a new mill; but such delays are becoming more infrequent and the output is increasing. About 94% of the gold values in the ore are saved, and 88½% of the silver values. About sixty men are employed in the mine and mill.

SOME ALAMOS MINES.

"The Oasis" Correspondent Takes a Short Journey.

Last week THE OASIS correspondent, in company with Mr. Joseph Obermuller, acting American Consular Agent, took a trip to some of the well-known mines in the vicinity of Alamos. These mines are located at the westward end of the large mountain that lies to the south of Alamos, and stands like a giant sentinel, guarding the country roundabout. The road, after leaving Alamos, follows near the foot of the mountain, winding around corn patches, and through vast fields of the Maguey plant, from which the 'O be joyous' mescal and tequilla are made. After riding about an hour, we entered an arroyo, and a short distance up this arroyo, at the very base of the mountain, lies the town of Aduana.

At Aduana is located the mill, smelter, and offices of the Quintera Mining & Smelting Company. The general manager's home is also here. The mine is up in the mountain about a mile away, and the ore comes down to the mill and smelter by means of an aerial tramway.

Day and night the buckets come, swinging in places over deep cañons, in an endless procession, to the mill below. Be it known, the Quintera has been a bonanza some thirty years, and has been an infallible dividend payer.

The mine was acquired, according to report, by a firm of French bankers some thirty years ago. Shortly after they secured possession, bonanza ore was encountered, and they have been in bonanza ever since. The mine is said to produce in silver alone some 100,000 ounces a month, besides a vast amount of copper. Their best ores are copper glance, very high in silver.

The mill is twenty stamps, and the ore is treated by concentration and lixiviation.

Besides their own ores they smelt some custom ores, but the amount of outside ores treated is very small as they have been rather arbitrary in their treatment of customers. I suppose with the mine they have, they feel they can afford to be independent, but had they been more liberal in their treatment, the Alamos district would have much more development work to its credit.

After leaving Aduana, we ascended to the mine by means of a good wagon road built by the company. At the mine is an up to date hoisting and compressor plant.

The ore, on coming from the mine, is dumped down a chute to a sorting floor where sit boys and grey-headed men sorting. From the sorted ore, the ore is loaded into the tramway buckets and goes sailing down the mountain to be ground into dividends.

The mine is about in the center of the mother lode that extends for a distance of four or five miles north and south. It is on an ideal porphyry granite contact.

At times the porphyry wall has been apparently lost by the extension of granite horses, but on fur-

ther exploration the porphyry wall came in again and the lode was bigger and better.

The lode goes for several hundred feet on a slight dip, then goes off on a plane, and then takes a dip again. It will probably be a huge producer for many years to come.

It was in the Quintera mine several years ago, that Mr. Clarke, then superintendent, lost his life while heroically trying to save some miners. A deposit of oil kept in the mine for the use of the men, caught fire, and the fumes were overcoming the men in the headings and drifts. Mr. Clarke could easily have gotten out, as he was about to step on the cage at the time, but he chose to stay and help the men that were being overcome by the fumes, and was himself overcome.

Leaving the Quintera, we crossed over to the south side of the mountain to the mine and town of Promentoria, where we had a good supper and rest, Mr. Obermuller proving himself a bully host.

Next morning we were out stirring around early, and I took a trip over the property.

The Promentoria mine has a history very similar to the Quintera. It adjoins the Quintera, and is a continuation of the same lode. It was first worked several hundred years ago by the Spaniards, and Indians, by means of wide open cuts that are eighty to a hundred feet wide, and as deep as six hundred feet, extending for a distance of half a mile.

One is amazed at the industriousness of the early Spaniard. The correspondent has seen the marks of their labor before, too great to be effaced by time, but he has never seen any thing like those immense open cuts before, with a dump of thousands of tons.

It must have taken years to have extracted all that ore, and the processes for treating ore at that time were necessarily very slow.

The early great fortunes of Alamos were made in this mine and the Quintera. How many millions were taken out will never be authentically known, as the first authentic figures starts with the acquirement of the mine by an English company.

This company worked the mine for twenty-five years, being most of the time in bonanza. They made no attempt to save the copper, as at that time there was no railroad, and copper not thought worth the saving. It is estimated over five million dollars of copper went down the arroyo. The company built fine general offices, and in the English manner stunted on nothing. After twenty-five years of steady operation, they sold the mine to Don Clemente Ibarra who soon realized a fortune out of it, who in turn sold it to its present owners, the Alamos Gold-Silver company, of which Mr. Obermuller is general manager.

About three years ago Mr. Obermuller came down into the country to make an inspection of some properties and through Mr. David Roy he was induced to go out and look at the Promentoria mine. After a thorough examination of it and the Quintera he was sure he had

found a mine that had a huge, practically inexhaustible ore body. He immediately went to the states and in company with some capitalists bought the mine, calling the company the Alamos Silver-Copper Company. Mr. Obermuller is an experienced mining agent who has operated extensively in North and South America and who struck me as being exceedingly conservative. Quite a rare thing for a mining man.

I was given an opportunity to see the mine, which is entered by a tunnel near the manager's house. After a short walk we came to one of the old bonanza stopes. Running out from the drift into it at regular intervals for a distance of several hundred feet were short cross cuts.

It must have been an immense stope. At a point about midway of the stope a raise put up by Mr. Obermuller cut eight feet of ore left on the foot wall that will run sixty ounces. When the old timers scorned to work sixty ounce ore, what must the other have been? We were unable to get to the lowest levels as they are at present filled with water, but we ascended to the upper levels and I was able to verify all I had been told about the mine. The contact is the same as the Quintera, porphyry and granite, and there are two parallel veins about half a kilometer apart, one of which has not been extensively worked. While the Quintera has been worked some fifteen hundred feet the Promentoria has only been worked some six hundred feet and the first thing done will be to sink. The mine can be dewatered very easily as the water enters very slowly. The deal was closed just before the panic and the management have been waiting till things get normal in the states. In the evening we left for the Creston Blanco claim, which at present is under option, I understand, to Mr. F. Dow of Chicago.

The Creston Blanco claim has been held for many years by Mr. Clemente Ibarra. It is situated about an hour's ride from Alamos. It is a great quartz ledge in granite and porphyry. The ledge is at places eighty feet high and has a uniform width of about from thirty to forty feet. It is all silver bearing, averaging from fifteen ounces to twenty. Right under its highest cropping, shafts were sunk, and ore to the value of several thousand ounces per ton taken out. I took some assays from the walls of one of the shafts about twenty feet from the surface that averaged about thirty-five ounces. At one place Mr. Obermuller and I found a face that contained horn silver.

The gold values are small as the claim is properly a silver claim. The quartz contains no copper whatever and can be very easily milled. There is a small dump where in the early days they sorted the ore; that runs enough in silver to run through the mill. We found small pieces of ore on the dump that showed native silver.

The Creston Blanco impressed the correspondent as being the equal of any prospect he has seen

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